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Featuring:

Agricultural Prices • Grain Stocks • Hogs & Pigs • Honey • Milk Production • Prospective Plantings

Growers plan to set fewest burley tobacco acres on record

Louisville, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Prospective Plantings report on March 29th, showing lower corn and burley tobacco planting intentions, but higher soybean acres in 2018.

Burley tobacco growers in Kentucky intend to set 57,000 acres for harvest, down 6,000 acres from 2017. For the burley producing states, growers intend to set 72,900 acres, down 8,600 from last year.

“This will be the lowest burley tobacco acreage on record, just below the 58,000 harvested in 2015,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Tobacco buyers are contracting fewer acres, and growing expenses have been increasing more than prices received for burley in recent years.”

Farmers in Kentucky intend to plant 1.28 million acres of **corn**, 40,000 lower than 2017. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 88 million acres for all purposes in 2018, down two percent from last year and six percent from 2016.

Soybean acreage in Kentucky was expected to total two million acres, up 50,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. soybean planted area for 2018 is estimated at 89 million acres, down one percent from last year.

“Returns on soybeans continue to be the more attractive option for producers compared to corn,” Knopf said. “Growers typically follow a cropping rotation between soybeans and corn, so planned changes in those acreages aren’t drastically different from 2017. If planting intentions follow through, this would be another record high acreage exceeding last year’s plantings.”

Producers intend to set 12,000 acres of **dark-fired tobacco** in Kentucky, up 500 acres from the previous year. Acreage set to dark-air tobacco was estimated at 5,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2017.

Winter wheat seeded by Kentucky farmers in the fall of 2017 totaled 440,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from previous year. Seeded acreage for the nation was 32.7 million acres, up slightly from 2016.

Farmers in the state intend to harvest 2.1 million acres of **all hay**, down 80,000 acres from 2017. U.S. farmers intend on harvesting 53.7 million acres of hay in 2018, down slightly from last year. The acreage of all hay harvested during a summer depends to a great measure on the moisture received during the growing season and temperatures experienced. With a drier summer farmers will cut more hay to feed their cattle.

“We appreciate farmers who participated in the March Agricultural Survey,” Knopf said. “The next acreage report will be released June 29.”

Prospective Plantings, KY & U.S. - March 1, 2018

Crops	Kentucky			U.S.		
	2017	2018	18 % of 17	2017	2018	18 % of 17
	<i>(000 Acres)</i>	<i>(000 Acres)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>(000 Acres)</i>	<i>(000 Acres)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1,320	1,280	97	90,167	88,026	98
Soybeans	1,950	2,000	103	90,142	88,982	99
Sorghum, All	(¹)	(¹)	--	5,626	5,932	105
Hay, All ²	2,150	2,070	96	53,784	53,726	100
Tobacco, All ²	80.5	74.0	92	321.5	309.6	96
Burley ²	63.0	57.0	90	81.5	72.9	89
Wheat, All ³	480	440	92	46,012	47,339	103
Barley ³	(¹)	(¹)	--	2,481	2,286	92

¹ Estimates discontinued in 2009. ² Harvested acreage. ³ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

**Hogs and Pigs: Inventory Numbers by Class & Weight Groups
March 1, 2017 - 2018, Selected States and U.S.**

State	Total		Breeding		Market		Market Hogs			
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	< 50	50-119	120-179	> 180
							pounds			
							2018			
	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>	<i>1,000 hd</i>
CO	700	770	155	155	545	615	285	120	105	105
IL	5,250	5,300	540	540	4,710	4,760	1,465	1,465	990	840
IN	4,050	4,050	280	260	3,770	3,790	955	1,150	850	835
IA	21,600	22,600	1,000	1,020	20,600	21,580	5,590	6,720	5,340	3,930
KS	1,970	2,050	165	160	1,805	1,890	405	540	410	535
KY ¹	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
MI	1,110	1,200	110	120	1,000	1,080	320	265	245	250
MN	8,400	8,500	560	570	7,840	7,930	2,620	2,400	1,760	1,150
MO	3,100	3,450	445	455	2,655	2,995	1,455	560	530	450
NE	3,300	3,450	415	420	2,885	3,030	1,040	775	670	545
NC	9,200	8,900	880	900	8,320	8,000	3,250	1,720	1,690	1,340
OH	2,650	2,900	185	190	2,465	2,710	700	730	690	590
OK	2,100	2,160	445	445	1,655	1,715	735	335	250	395
PA	1,140	1,190	100	110	1,040	1,080	285	310	260	225
SD	1,450	1,660	200	235	1,250	1,425	510	370	280	265
TX	910	1,100	120	145	790	955	270	260	180	245
UT	700	495	80	75	620	420	155	80	95	90
Other ¹	3,071	3,133	418	400	2,653	2,733	1,007	622	529	574
US	70,701	72,908	6,098	6,200	64,603	66,708	21,047	18,422	14,874	12,364

¹ Individual State estimates not available for the 34 other States. Kentucky included in "Other".

Kentucky and United States Stocks of Grain, March 1, 2018 with Comparisons

Crop & Position	Kentucky			United States		
	Mar 2017	Dec 2017 ¹	Mar 2018	Mar 2017	Dec 2017 ¹	Mar 2018
	(000 Bushels)	(000 Bushels)	(000 Bushels)	(000 Bushels)	(000 Bushels)	(000 Bushels)
Corn						
On-Farm	42,000	120,000	64,000	4,908,000	7,739,000	5,002,000
Off-Farm ²	29,235	29,524	29,728	3,713,992	4,827,501	3,886,396
Total	71,235	149,524	93,728	8,621,992	12,566,501	8,888,396
Sorghum						
On-Farm	(3)	(3)	(3)	21,250	33,800	13,250
Off-Farm ²	(D)	(D)	(D)	159,495	193,692	125,023
Total	(D)	(D)	(D)	180,745	227,492	138,273
Oats						
On-Farm	(3)	(3)	(3)	22,320	23,300	17,240
Off-Farm ²	88	40	49	40,885	43,166	37,826
Total	88	40	49	63,205	66,466	55,066
Barley						
On-Farm	(3)	(3)	(3)	56,490	74,340	48,540
Off-Farm ¹	(D)	(D)	(D)	88,211	84,528	80,811
Total	(D)	(D)	(D)	144,701	158,868	129,351
All Wheat						
On-Farm	(D)	(D)	(D)	349,500	394,080	259,310
Off-Farm ²	10,424	13,214	10,936	1,309,175	1,479,335	1,235,059
Total	(D)	(D)	(D)	1,658,675	1,873,415	1,494,369
Soybeans						
On-Farm	(D)	(D)	(D)	668,500	1,485,000	855,000
Off-Farm ²	9,635	19,435	12,387	1,070,433	1,675,679	1,252,146
Total	(D)	(D)	(D)	1,738,933	3,160,679	2,107,146

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Data may have been revised. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. ³ On-Farm stocks estimates not made.

2017 Honey Production Down from Last Year

Kentucky honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 190 thousand pounds, down 17 percent from 2016. Value of honey production in 2017 was \$775,000, down 16 percent from 2016. There were 5 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2017. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 38.0 pounds, down 8 pounds from the yield in 2016. Producer honey stocks were 42,000 pounds on December 15, 2017, down 12 percent from a year earlier.

United States honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2016. There were 2.67 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2017, down 4 percent from 2016. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 55.3 pounds, down 3 pounds from the 58.3 pounds in 2016. Producer honey stocks were 30.6 million pounds on December 15, 2017, down 26 percent from a year earlier.

Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value — Kentucky: 2012-2017

[Producers with 5 or more colonies.]

Year	Honey producing colonies ¹	Yield per colony	Production	Stocks December 15 ²	Average price per pound ³	Value of production ⁴
	(1,000)	(Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(Cents)	(1,000 Dollars)
2012	5	51	255	41	315	803
2013	3	41	123	17	325	400
2014	5	47	235	56	396	931
2015	5	46	230	55	404	929
2016	5	46	230	48	402	925
2017	5	38	190	42	408	775

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.9 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from February 2017. January revised production, at 17.3 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2017. The January revision represented an increase of 9 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,822 pounds for February, 23 pounds above February 2017.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.75 million head, 49,000 head more than February 2017, and 1,000 head more than January 2018.

Crop Average Prices Received ¹

Commodity	Kentucky		U.S.	
	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2018
	\$	\$	\$	\$
All Corn (Bu) ²³	3.91	3.75	3.44	3.38
Soybeans (Bu) ²	10.20	9.85	9.86	9.49
Winter Wheat (Bu) ²	(4)	(4)	3.77	4.63
Hay, Alfalfa (Ton)	220.00	215.00	127.00	155.00
Hay, Other (Ton)	110.00	120.00	121.00	124.00

¹ Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. ² Includes contract sales paid during month. ³ Includes yellow and white corn. ⁴ Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately.

Livestock Average Prices Received ¹

Commodity	United States		
	Feb 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018
	\$ / Cwt.	\$ / Cwt.	\$ / Cwt.
All Hogs	54.40	52.50	54.60
Barrows & Gilts	55.30	52.90	54.60
Sows	33.20	40.40	54.50
All Beef Cattle ³	119.00	120.00	125.00
Steers & Heifers ⁴	121.00	123.00	127.00
Cows	64.90	63.30	65.60
Calves ⁵	151.00	174.00	180.00

¹ U.S. prices based on data provided by USDA AMS. ² "Steers & Heifers" and "Cows" combined. ³ 500 lbs. and over. ⁴ Under 500 lbs.

Internet Access: Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>